

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
BASE PHOTO LABORATORY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2710)
Connecticut Road, East of Idaho Avenue
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-CG

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. NY-326-CG

Location: Connecticut Road, East of Idaho Avenue, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622320.4945440
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2710 provided 4,040 square feet of photo lab space and 1,078 square feet of audiovisual space. The Base Photo Lab provided photography and other visual services required to support the housekeeping management, information, and operational functions of base organizations, including tenants. It did not provide support for photographic tasks that were the responsibility of reconnaissance laboratories, special mission laboratories, or the audiovisual facility.

Project Information: Building No. 2710 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from Federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Base Photo Laboratory (Building No. 2710)

Layout

Building No. 2710 is a 5,118 square-foot, one-story, reinforced concrete block building. Its roof has a minimal pitch to it (appearing to be almost flat), has minimal overhangs, and hosts three ventilators and several air ducts. The building is rectangular in plan. On the northeast façade there is an offset that measures 17'-4" x 12'-8". The southeast façade hosts a flat roof, covered vestibule 4'-0" x 5'-0", while the northeast façade has vestibule measuring 10'-0" x 4'-0". The front (northeast) façade has no windows, while the remaining façades have limited numbers of individual and paired, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows with precast concrete sills.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no major alterations or additions made to Building No. 2710.

Function

Building No. 2710 was used as exclusively as a photographic laboratory providing visual services to a variety of base organizations, as well as for general information. This facility was not used for photographic tasks normally undertaken by reconnaissance laboratories, special mission laboratories, or for audiovisual needs.

Significance

The end of World War II saw the beginning of hostile relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, based on differing social, economic, and political views. As this "Cold War" escalated, the United States instituted a policy of containment, which called for a "peaceful" blocking of the expansion of Soviet political and economic influence. Nuclear weapons, which had also developed at the end of World War II, held a significant place in this conflict, but it was theorized that an American nuclear capability, if strong enough, could deter unwanted Soviet expansion.

On March 21, 1946, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering the atomic weapons. With the motto "peace is our profession" SAC was the physical realization of America's deterrence theory.

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these facilities, among which would have to be counted the Base Photo Laboratory, Building No. 2710.

Building No. 2710 at Plattsburgh AFB was constructed in 1957 to provide state-of-the-art photography services for all base operational needs, except for reconnaissance and special mission photography

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requirements. It was in this capacity that Building No. 2710 both supported and enhanced the administrative aspects of the SAC mission.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for the Base Photo Laboratory, Building No. 2670, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace....is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

United States Air Force

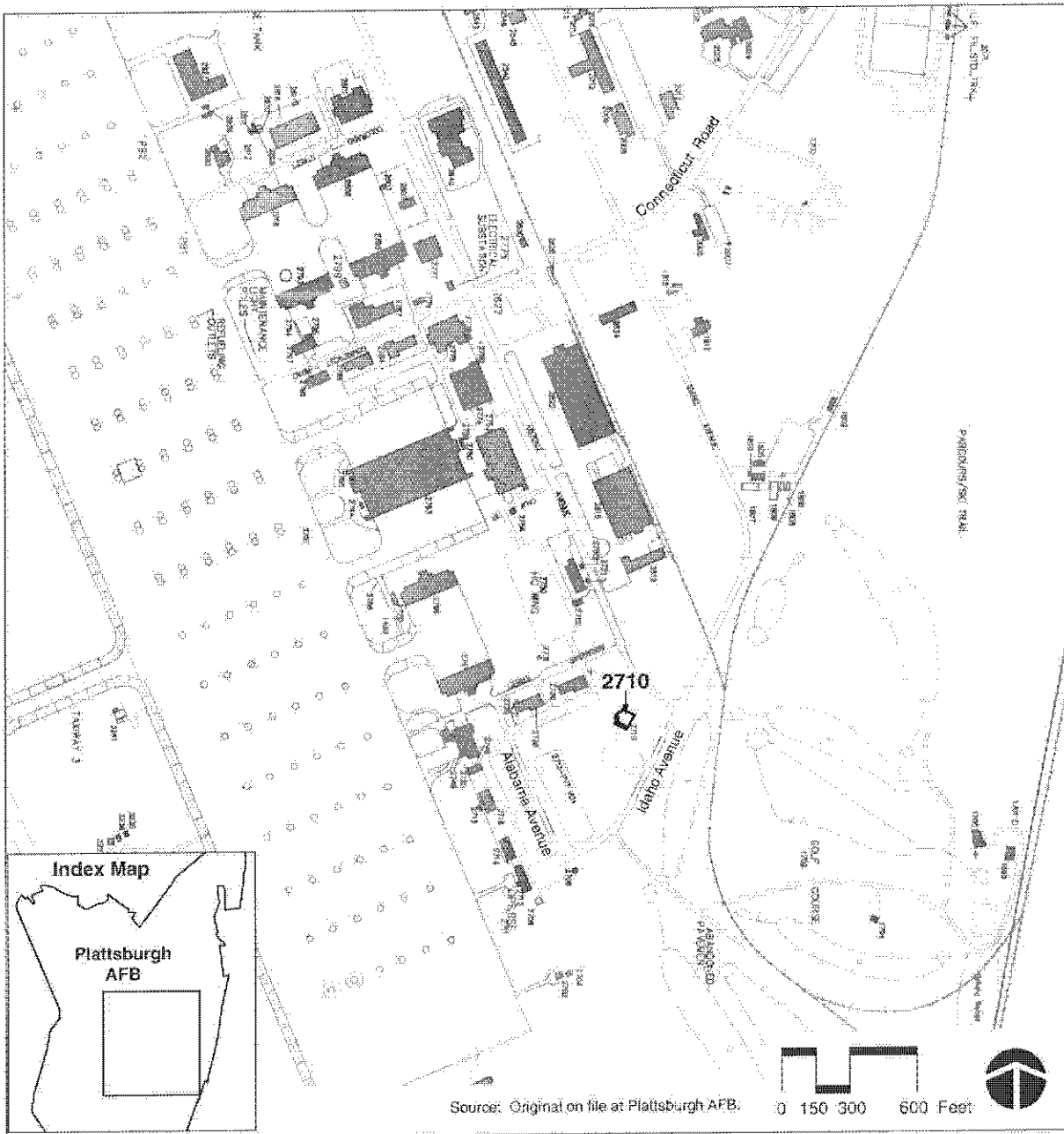
2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York*, Volumes I and II, June.

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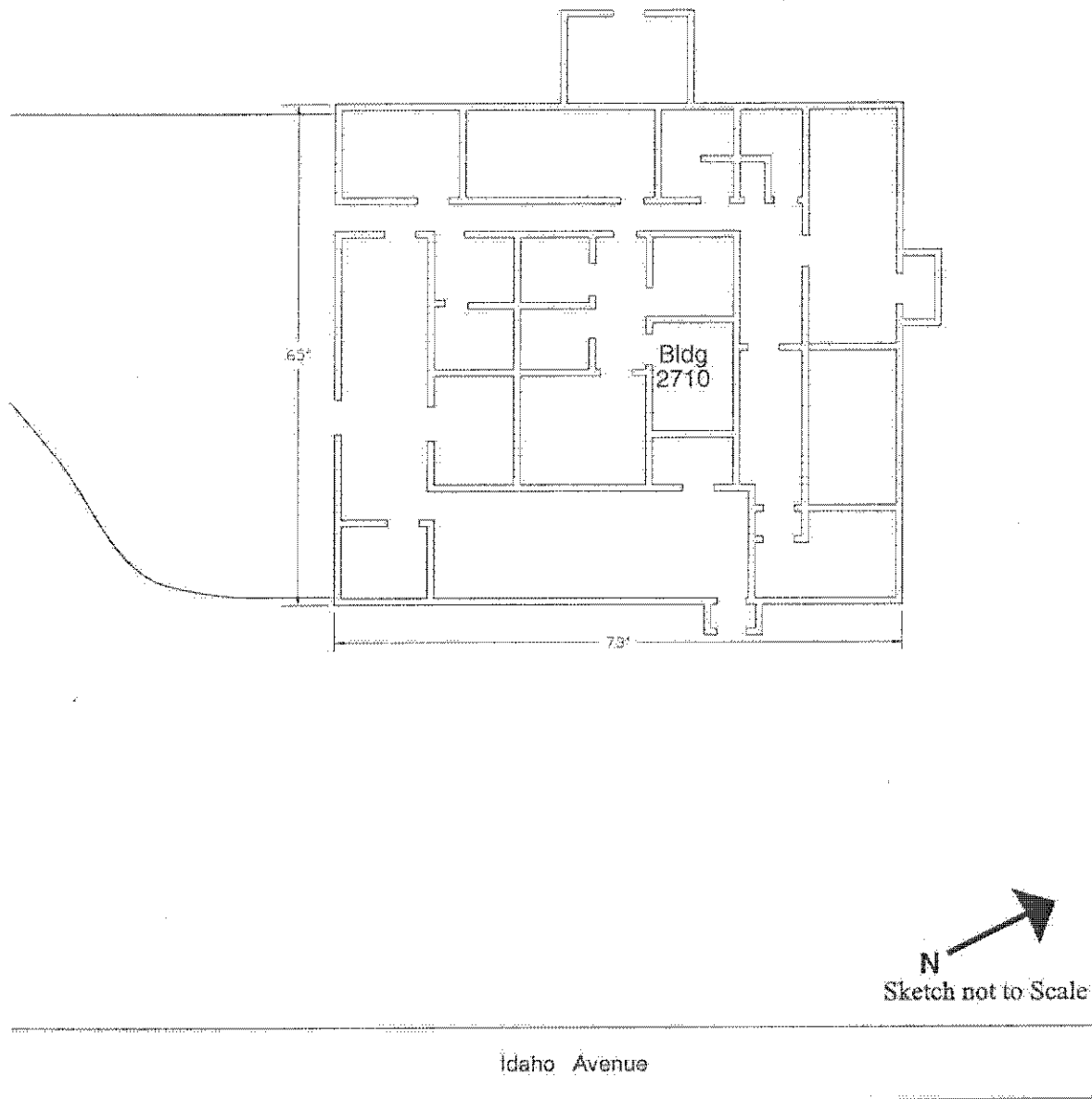
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Location Map for Base Photo Laboratory, Building No. 2710

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SKETCH PLAN – BASE PHOTO LABORATORY BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2710)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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